

I Don't Want to Talk About It Puppet Show (*introduces sorrow for sin, confession, atonement*)

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| Sierra | Hi Herman! What's wrong? |
| Herman | Blah, blah, blah. |
| Sierra | Umm. What does that mean? |
| Herman | It means I don't want to talk about it, Sierra! |
| Sierra | Oh. Oh, I get it. Blah, blah. Like words that you don't feel like saying, right? Right? |
| Herman | I. Don't. Want. To. Talk. About. It. |
| Sierra | Why? |
| Herman | Grrrrrrrr. |
| Sierra | Hmmm. You know, sometimes it helps to talk about it. |
| Herman | Not for me it doesn't. |
| Sierra | You might want to try it. |
| Herman | No, I do not want to try it, Yucky Girl! |
| Sierra | Ouch. Um, Herman, if something's bothering you... |
| Herman | Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Talking is useless. It can't change anything. |
| Sierra | Oh. You want to change something? |
| Herman | Yes. But I do not want to talk about the thing I want to change. |
| Sierra | Hmmm. It might not change, but you might feel better if you talk about it. |
| Herman | How will talking make me feel better? |
| Sierra | Well, you'll talk and I'll listen. That will show I care. Then you won't be the only one carrying the heavy thing that's bothering you. |
| Herman | <i>(looks around)</i> Really? |
| Sierra | Yes. |
| Herman | Okay. <i>(nervously)</i> I'll try it. But will you promise not to tell anyone? |
| Sierra | Absolutely. You can trust me. Remember the time you were scared of that bully and you asked me not to tell anyone? |
| Herman | You kept my secret and even helped me to be brave and stand up for myself. |
| Sierra | That's what friends are for. |
| Herman | Okay, so you'll keep it a secret? |
| Sierra | Yes, I will. |
| Herman | Okay. <i>(pause)</i> I lied to my mother. <i>(cries)</i> |
| Sierra | Oh. What about? |

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| Herman | She asked me if I was the one who broke her little statue of Jesus and I said, "No." She thinks the cat did it. It was an accident. I threw the ball in the house and I wasn't supposed to. I figured she'd be mad, so I lied. |
| Sierra | And now you feel terrible. |
| Herman | I feel double, triple, quadruple terrible. I feel like mud on a shoe. <i>(sighs)</i> |
| Sierra | I think you should tell your mother. |
| Herman | Tell her! Are you nuts!? She'll be furious! I'll get punished! |
| Sierra | You're already punishing yourself. You feel like crud on a shoe. |
| Herman | That's mud. |
| Sierra | You feel like crud on a mud? |
| Herman | Crud on a shoe. I mean mud on a shoe! Oh forget it. I don't want to tell her! |
| Sierra | Wouldn't you rather have a little punishment from your mom and be able to tell her the truth and have a big hug and get back to feeling great? |
| Herman | But what if she gets really mad? |
| Sierra | Well, she'll probably be upset that you lied, but she'll always love you and she'll be so proud you told her the truth. That shows that you love her. |
| Herman | Oh, wow. <i>(stops to think)</i> You know what? |
| Sierra | What. |
| Herman | I'm starting to feel better. |
| Sierra | Good! |
| Herman | I'm going to tell my mom as soon as she gets home. |
| Sierra | That's great! There's someone else you should tell, too. |
| Herman | Oh, brother. What are you talking about? I already told you and I'm going to tell my mother. Who else can there be? |
| Sierra | Tell a priest. Go to Reconciliation and confess your sin to a priest. |
| Herman | But it's embarrassing enough to tell my mother. Why should I tell a priest, too? |
| Sierra | Don't you remember what we learned in our religion class? The priest says the words of forgiveness that were given to all priests by Jesus Christ. By God's power we receive the gift of Sanctifying Grace. |
| Herman | Oh, Sanctifying Grace. <i>(dancing to the rhythm of the words)</i> Sanctifying Grace! Sanctifying Grace! Yeah, I remember that. Our teacher said it was like rocket fuel for our souls. |
| Sierra | Right! <i>(dances)</i> Sanctifying Grace is a share in God's life. God gives us the strength to do better as He washes our souls clean, like mud off a new shoe. Then the priest tells us what to do to make things better. |

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| Herman | Like saying prayers or doing a good work! Now I remember. But I'm worried. |
| Sierra | About what? |
| Herman | What if the priest tells other people about my sins? |
| Sierra | You can trust the priest even more than you trust me or your mom. |
| Herman | What? Are you kidding? I hardly know the priest at my church. How do I know I can trust him? |
| Sierra | Because he is not allowed to talk about our confessions with anyone. It's a very serious rule that all priests have to obey. |
| Herman | Wow. That's a good rule. So the priest is like a good friend. |
| Sierra | Yes. Even better. He's like Jesus Christ, because he can really, truly forgive our sins. |
| Herman | And help us do better. Cool. Guess what? |
| Sierra | What. |
| Herman | First, I'm going to talk to my mom. Then I'm going to go to Reconciliation. And then I'll do whatever the priest tells me to do. Also, I've got some money saved from my birthday; I'm going to give it to my mom so she can buy another statue. |
| Sierra | Wow. You're getting very grown up inside! |
| Herman | Well... <i>(shyly)</i> I'm really glad I talked it out with someone I trust – Sierra. |
| Sierra | <i>(also shyly)</i> You're welcome, Herman. |
| Herman | You want to know something? |
| Sierra | What? |
| Herman | <i>(bashfully)</i> You're not really yucky. I'm sorry I said that. |
| Sierra | Oh, thanks. I forgive you! |
| Herman | You're not yucky, but you are IT! <i>(tags her and runs away laughing)</i> Tag, you're it! |
| Sierra | Hey, I thought you didn't want to talk about IT!!!! <i>(follows, laughing)</i> Get it? IT? Tag, you're it???? Hahahaha!!!! I'm gonna get you!!! <i>(chases him off stage)</i> |

The End